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Kuwait, S. Yemen stress solidarity
KUWAIT, Feb. 7 (R)—Kuwait and South Yemen today stressed the need to consolidate Arab solidarity to recover Israeli occupied Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with resolution of Arab summit conferences. In a joint communique issued here at the end of a two-day visit by South Yemeni President Abdul-Fattah Ismail, both sides also reiterated their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to recover their homeland. The Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and President Ismail held talks on bilateral relations, Middle East developments and the situation in the Gulf. The communique said the two countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relations. It added President Ismail had informed the Emir of the situation concerning South and North Yemen—locked in bitter political disputes and accusing each other of aggressive intentions. The communique expressed the Emir's hope that all issues between the two Yemens be resolved in a fraternal manner.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 20 pence

Oil-makers invited to depict Gulf
LONDON, Feb. 7 (R)—Seven Gulf states decided today to invite oil-makers and authors to tell the West how oil money is spent, an official spokesman said. Information ministers of seven states here dropped plans for an oil information conference to counter western allegations that Arabs waste their oil. They said instead that oil-makers and authors would be invited to show in their own way oil money being spent on investment in Arab countries and the third world. The spokesman added that they would be paid for their work. The ministers agreed that censorship on publications should be eased and distribution of newspapers and magazines speeded up to the understanding in the Gulf region. State airlines would be asked to cut freight charges for publications by 75 per cent. The spokesman represented at the conference were Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Iraq.

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Regional Briefs

Yugoslav leader arrives in Kuwait
KUWAIT, Feb. 7 (R)—Yugoslav President Tito arrived here today with President Tito of Yugoslavia on a bilateral relations and Arab and international developments. The Iraq News Agency (INA) said the talks were marked by complete understanding and covered bilateral cooperation in all fields. The two leaders also discussed concerted efforts in backing the non-aligned movement. It added, The Yugoslav leader arrived here on Sunday for an official five-day visit as part of an Arab tour which has already taken him to Kuwait. After Iraq, President Tito will visit Syria and Jordan.

Israeli police holding 23 suspects
TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (R)—Israeli police are holding 23 suspects in connection with the theft of diamonds valued at about \$250 million, a spokesman said today. More arrests are expected, police said. One officer told reporters the thefts from Ben Gurion Airport had been going on for five years. The diamonds were being smuggled out of the airport by a group of men, he said. Sources said five members of the local underworld were being held.

Pope Shenouda the Third, leader of the Coptic Orthodox Christians, left here today by air for a 10-day visit to Britain. At a news conference Pope Shenouda said his church had begun talks with the Anglican Church leaders aimed towards Christian unity. Pope Shenouda met Dr. Donald Coggan, leader of the Anglican Church, during his stay. The Coptic Church has some 25 million members.

Malaysia agreed to buy crude oil
KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 7 (R)—Malaysia has agreed to buy crude oil from Iraq to improve the trade balance between the two countries, a spokesman said today. Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmad Rihandeen assured his visiting Iraqi counterpart, Dr. Saadun Hammadi, during a two-hour meeting today that the matter would be further discussed by a Malaysian trade mission which would be visiting Iraq in the second half of the year. The mission would be led by a senior official of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Kuwait's Chief of Staff Gen. Mubarak Al Sabah was quoted here today as saying that policy of his country was to diversify the sources of weapons without strings or conditions. In an interview published today, Gen. Mubarak said his country had bought Soviet weapons but there were no Soviet trainers in Kuwait. The general said that Kuwait used Arab experts to train the Kuwaitis on the use of these weapons.

Oman has increased the price of its oil
DUBAI, Feb. 7 (R)—Oman has increased the price of its oil by 10 per cent, a barrel backdated to Jan. 1, government sources said. The new price of a barrel of Omani crude was now \$13.50, compared with \$12.50 a barrel at the end of 1978. The increase, above five per cent rise for the first quarter of 1979, was to compensate for the increase in the price of oil in the international market. In its meeting in Abu Dhabi, OPEC decided to raise its 1979 oil prices by 14.5 per cent spread over quarterly increases.

President Idi Amin of Uganda sent a message to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the newspaper Al-Ahram said today. It said the message was sent by the Ugandan Foreign Minister, Secretary General Riad, a League spokesman said. The message dealt with the Uganda border dispute, he said, but gave details. The spokesman said the message would be conveyed to all League states.

Some 2,000 Lebanese doctors today went on strike in protest against the weekend murder of a Dr. Najib Salah Edine was shot at his clinic in pre-vious Moslem West Beirut on Saturday. Investigators have been unable to establish the identity or motive of the killer. 100 doctors in North Lebanon will observe a similar tomorrow but medical sources said the striking doctors had no emergency cases.

The Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah today received a message from the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on bilateral relations and Gulf issues. Officials said the message was delivered by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa who arrived here today for talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah. Sheikh Mohammed told reporters his visit to Kuwait was within consultations on consolidating bilateral relations and exchanging views on developments in the region.

Leading European Christian Democrats will visit Egypt next month, it was announced today. Kai-uwe von Hassel, Chairman of the European Christian Democrats, said the visit will take place four days after the fact-finding mission which leaves tomorrow for von Hassel, who will lead the delegation to Israel. It will meet Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Minister Moshe Dayan. The delegation going to Egypt will include von Hassel, his wife, and other members of the party.

The British royal anna put anchor today at port of Shuwaikh in preparation for Elizabeth's visit on Feb. 12, the Gulf tour. Britannia will be the ship during her tour which will include Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

U.S. report reveals Israel's 'most severe torture' of Arabs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (AP)—New reports from U.S. embassy personnel alleging Israeli torture of Palestinian prisoners prompted the State Department to toughen greatly the language in its 1979 Human Rights Report, the Washington Post said today. The confidential cables from U.S. diplomats, which began coming in last May 31, said that the most severe torture included "refrigeration, use of electricity, hanging by the hands or feet, extreme forms of sexual sadism, interrogation accompanied by starvation and enforced sleeplessness," the Post said. The cables, according to the newspaper, reported "the possibility that...brutality in the interrogation of Arab political prisoners is a systematic practice...backed up by...administrative support and protected by standard methods of suppressing complaints..." Israel has consistently denied charges of violating the human rights of Palestinian prisoners in the occupied territories. The secret 1978 cables were the first U.S. Embassy reports suggesting systematic Israeli abuse of Arab prisoners, the Post said. The 1979 Human Rights Report, due to be made public today or tomorrow, said: "The accumulation of reports, some from credible sources, make it appear that instances of mistreatment have occurred..." The embassy allegations were based on interviews conducted with 29 Palestinians by Alexandra U. Johnson, a junior Foreign Service officer, the Post said. The Palestinians, who had been charged with membership in illegal Palestinian groups, were applying for visas to the United States. Ms. Johnson concluded that 15 of the 29 had been imprisoned on the basis of false confessions elicited by torture. State Department spokesman Ken Brown said Tuesday night he could make no comment on the newspaper report. (Editorial comment, page 2)

Bhutto lawyers to appeal

RAWALPINDI, Feb. 7 (Agencies)—Defence lawyers for former Pakistani Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto worked against the clock today to find new grounds to appeal against his death sentence. The Supreme Court gave them until Wednesday to put forward reasons why it should reverse its decision yesterday to uphold the sentence passed on Mr. Bhutto for conspiring to kill a political opponent. Five lawyers were combing the Court's 800-page judgement looking for errors or omissions which could be used to persuade the justices to change their minds. After visiting him in his death cell, the lawyers said Mr. Bhutto was in good spirits but was feeling the cold because warders had taken away his heater. Mr. Bhutto has said he will not appeal for clemency to President Zia-ul-Haq, the man who toppled him in a military coup 18 months ago. He has also forbidden his family to do so. The 51-year-old former premier was formally told today of the Supreme Court's rejection of his appeal. The notification meant that he could be hanged early next Friday of next week unless a plea for mercy reaches President Zia. But a senior government official said Mr. Bhutto would not be executed before all possible court procedures were exhausted. The government recalled Religious Affairs Minister and legal expert A.K. Brohi from London for consultations about the Court's 4-3 split decision. Chief Defence Counsel Yahya Bakhtiar said there was no precedent in Pakistan for hanging a man on a split ruling. Defence lawyers complained also that they had been given insufficient time to prepare their next petition to the court. Pleas for clemency were made today by three of the four men convicted with Mr. Bhutto and whose appeals against death sentences were also refused by the court. Both Mr. Bhutto's lawyers and members of his Pakistan People's Party appeared to be despondent about the outcome of the Supreme Court appeal. But Pakistan has remained calm and there has been no sign of organised protests. People's Party sources said the army had released 600 people rounded up in Mr. Bhutto's home province of Sind last weekend after they gave written assurances of good behaviour. The party claims thousands of its supporters were detained in advance of the Supreme Court ruling. Reaction to the sentence continued throughout the world. United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan has appealed to President Zia to commute the death sentence against the former premier, officials in Abu Dhabi said. In Kuwait the Kuwait News Agency reported the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah also appealed to President Zia to commute the death sentence against Mr. Bhutto for his efforts for the sake of Moslem, Arab and international causes. In Doha, officials said the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani had sent a similar appeal to President Zia to spare Mr. Bhutto's life.

West Bank Arabs continue protest despite arrests
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (R)—Arab demonstrations continued in the occupied West Bank today despite the arrest of several youths last night for creating similar disturbances. Young Arabs have been protesting for the past week against the demolition or blocking up of houses occupied by people suspected by the Israeli authorities of carrying out commando attacks. Students at a school near Ramallah today smashed the windcreens of military vehicles. Military sources said a curfew on the Palestinian refugee camp of Jalazum near Ramallah was lifted after a house-to-house search and the arrest of teenagers suspected of setting up roadblocks and stoning Israeli vehicles.

Deng says USSR meddled in Iran

TOKYO, Feb. 7 (R)—Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping today accused the Soviet Union of meddling in Iran and warned that Saudi Arabia and other third world countries could be future Kremlin targets, a Japanese spokesman said. Mr. Deng also told former Premier Takeo Fukuda that military action taken with Soviet and Vietnamese backing in Kampuchea could spread to countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), he said. Spokesman Yoshio Mori, one of Mr. Fukuda's former cabinet aides, said Mr. Deng gave no details of the alleged Soviet intervention in Iran, although he said it might later extend to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India. Mr. Deng, whose attacks on Moscow could embarrass his Japanese hosts, was quoted as saying ASEAN could become involved "if we remain inactive" in the face of developments in Kampuchea. ASEAN, an economic and cultural alliance, groups Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. Mr. Deng said the Kremlin, using Cuban troops, had already taken action in Africa and Latin America. "If the United States could have taken appropriate measures the current situations in those areas might have been averted," he added. The 74-year-old Chinese leader was quoted as telling Mr. Fukuda that the U.S. should deal resolutely with the situation in Iran and with Cuban moves in Latin America and Africa. Mr. Deng suggested to Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira that some kind of sanction should be imposed on Vietnam following the ousting of Kampuchea's Peking-backed Pol-Pot government. But he did not detail a possible course of action, and was quoted as saying that China was dealing cautiously with the problem. Mr. Ohira later told the Japanese Diet he did not get the impression that Peking planned an immediate show of force against Vietnam. In Moscow, the Soviet Union today voiced concern that the United States had not dissociated itself from recent attacks on Moscow by Mr. Deng. In its first comment since Mr. Deng left the U.S. on Monday, the official news agency (TASS) said most U.S. commentators agreed he had done "good service to American war hawks" who opposed détente with Moscow. Deng's conduct in the U.S.A. came as no surprise. The Sims he pursued in going to America were well known in advance—namely to try to draw Washington to China's adventurist policy, TASS said.

As deadlock between rival premiers hardens

Iran's military support Bakhtiar

TEHRAN, Feb. 7 (R)—Iran's armed forces, apparently ruling out the possibility of a military coup, stressed their support for the Shah-appointed government tonight and said servicemen should keep out of politics. It was a clear statement that politicians rather than military men must find a solution to the tangled crisis in Iran. General Abbas Gharahaghi, Chief of Staff of the military authority in the absence of the Shah on an enforced holiday, said the armed forces should back the royal-appointed administration of Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar. Dr. Bakhtiar is under increasing pressure to resign by the Moslem religious opposition led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Dr. Mehdi Bazargan, the man appointed by the Ayatollah as prime minister of a provisional Islamic government. Tehran Radio quoted General Gharahaghi, effective leader of 400,000 men under arms, as saying: "The armed forces should work towards maintaining Iran's independence and territorial integrity and support the constitution and the legal government." He also said servicemen should not interfere in politics but should maintain their solidarity and integrity, carrying out their duties under military regulations. The general's statement was delivered yesterday at a graduation ceremony in the Military Staff College but was broadcast to the nation for the first time tonight. At least one million supporters of Dr. Bazargan are expected to march through Tehran tomorrow. The city's military governor warned this evening that any attack on government buildings or security forces would be severely punished. Supporters of the Ayatollah Khomeini today claimed that the official Iranian administration headed by Dr. Bakhtiar is disintegrating rapidly. Aides of Parallel Prime Minister Bazargan said a large number of civil servants in Dr. Bakhtiar's office had gone on strike in protest against his refusal to resign. They claimed to have occupied a number of government departments. They said the ministries of foreign affairs, economy and finance, and health have been hit by civil service strikes which brought the government machinery to a virtual standstill in recent months. The reported occupations worsened the deadlock between Dr. Bakhtiar and the "provisional government". Both have denounced each other as illegal. Millions of people in large provincial centres, including the nation's second city Isfahan, demonstrated today in support of the Ayatollah-appointed parallel premier according to the official Pars news agency. A demonstration, expected to involve more than a million people, has been called in Tehran for tomorrow in support of Dr. Bazargan. Several thousand of the Shah's embattled supporters held a rally under heavy military protection in the capital today to launch a new political group and declare their support for Dr. Bakhtiar. Airline sources said today most foreign companies would probably cancel their flights to and from Tehran tomorrow because of the huge crowds expected to mass at the Shahyad Monument near the airport. Trouble was reported in the tribal areas of Iran for the second successive day when a gunnaw attacked the state-owned television station in the Kurdish provincial capital of Sanandaj. One paramilitary gendarme was killed in the attack. In Reyazeh, near the Turkish border, masked gunmen seriously wounded an army colonel. Aides of Ayatollah Khomeini said a group of soldiers and officers had declared their solidarity with the Islamic republican movement and would defy the authorities by taking part in tomorrow's Tehran march in uniform. The martial law administration gave the capital's 4.5 million people an extra hour on the streets from tonight when they cut the overnight curfew. The move was seen as aimed at reducing public hostility to martial law measures introduced last September. Tomorrow's big Tehran demonstration will coincide with a scheduled press conference by Dr. Bakhtiar at which he is expected to react to the growing pressure being put on him by Ayatollah Khomeini. Dr. Bazargan will announce his government programme of Friday when he might give his ministerial list, aides said today. The aides denied reports of contacts between the rival prime ministers aimed at reaching a compromise solution to the crisis. The turmoil in Iran and the Six-week-old halt in oil exports has brought down the value of the dollar everywhere except in Tehran, where black market money-changers were today offering an unprecedented 110 rials to the dollar—the official rate is 70 rials. But some banks and hotels have already been buying dollars at a premium to overcome the increased shortage of foreign exchange.

Ghali: Irani events boost Egypt

CAIRO, Feb. 7 (R)—Acting Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali has expressed the belief that events in Iran have strengthened the position of Egypt to the peace talks with Israel, two Cairo newspapers said today. The influential Al Gomhouria and the mass-circulation Al Akhbar said Dr. Ghali was asked at a parliamentary meeting yesterday whether the American attitude towards Middle East peace had changed after the turmoil in Iran. Al Gomhouria quoted Dr. Ghali as saying "events in Iran have strengthened the position of the Egyptian negotiator and have given a new push to America to work for stability in the region." It said Dr. Ghali told the committee that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had suggested the resumption of peace talks at ministerial level, and that the next meeting was expected to be held in Washington. On Egypt's attitude towards developments in Iran, the third Cairo daily, the authoritative Al-Ahram said Dr. Ghali told committee members that Egypt recognised the existing constitutional regime in Iran, and that it did not interfere in Iran's domestic affairs. In Tel Aviv, official sources said today Israel would be ready to attend a tripartite meeting of ministers within the next few weeks as suggested by Washington, to try to overcome the current deadlock in the peace talks. They said the U.S. invitation to the talks has not yet arrived here. When it does, it will have to be approved by the cabinet. A State Department spokesman said yesterday that the U.S. has approached Israel and Egypt to suggest an early resumption of the peace talks. Although he did not elaborate, the Israeli officials said the meeting was expected to be at Camp David, near Washington, in two weeks time and attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and Mr. Vance. In Washington, officials said the talks were unlikely to start for about two weeks and Washington was the probable venue. Mr. Vance will accompany President Carter on a visit to Mexico late next week. In view of a heavy schedule of foreign affairs issues, the President wants Mr. Vance to stay in the United States when they return, officials said.

Iranian situation causes flurry in world finance, oil markets

JEDDAH, Feb. 7 (Agencies)—Saudi Arabia today denied press reports that it was cutting back on oil production and that it was in touch with South Africa on a gold-for-oil barter deal. The denial was made to Al Sharq Al Awwat daily newspaper by Dr. Abdul Hadi Taber, Governor of Petromin, the country's petroleum and mineral authority. The two press reports had caused a flurry in international finance, causing sharp drops in the New York and London stock markets, sending the price of gold to near-record levels and pulling down the dollar. The Saudi government's budgeted production of 895 million barrels a day for the 1978-79 financial year was increased to 10.3 million barrels last month. Dr. Taber said Saudi Arabia boycotted even companies that dealt with South Africa. The rush to sell dollars, buy gold and sell stocks was apparently triggered by a report in the U.S. Wall Street Journal last Monday claiming that Saudi Arabian policies pointed to a tightening of world oil supplies. The Iranian crisis has already reduced world oil supplies and forced countries such as South Africa to search for new suppliers. In Washington, the U.S. Treasury Department today sought public comment on whether quotas or tariffs should be imposed on the country's oil imports. Government sources said the cut-off of oil from Iran had led the Treasury Department to step up an investigation into whether the oil import situation posed a threat to national security. The results of the probe, which began 11 months ago, would be presented to President Carter on March 14, the sources said. They said other government agencies, some of whom presented their opinions months ago, were busy reviewing their assessments in the light of the shut-off of Iranian oil. Iran provided five per cent of the 18 million barrels of oil used every day by the United States. The Treasury said today, in a notice in the official Federal Register, it wanted views on such issues as oil supplies and demand up to 1985 and the adequacy of emergency measures to deal with interruptions in oil imports. The Iranian political situation has also prompted France to accelerate its nuclear power programme to reduce the country's dependence on imported oil. The decision to speed up the construction of two nuclear power stations in northern France was taken at a restricted cabinet meeting this week.

JORDAN TIMES

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Jordanian businessmen find a good buy in trading with the Chinese

By Lee S. Tesdell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Diplomatic relations were established between Jordan and the People's Republic of China in April 1977. A year later, a Ministry of Supply delegation from Jordan went to China. China's Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Jia Shi, visited Jordan in July 1978 and signed an agreement with his Jordanian counterpart, "to work for better trade relations between the two countries."

Mr. Huo Tso-Chen, the Commercial Secretary at the Chinese embassy in Amman, told the Jordan Times that imports from China in 1977 were 1.6 per cent of Jordan's total imports, worth about J.D. 7 million. These imports consisted of consumer goods, foodstuffs, ready made clothing, light industrial goods, some construction materials and machinery. In return, China buys Jordanian phosphate.

Mr. Kuo said it is China's policy that "trade should be on an equal basis." He added: "Trade prospects have been broadened considerably since 1977."

Jordanian businessmen in the past year visited the Canton Trade Fair in larger numbers than before. The spring fair (from April 15 to May 15), was attended by sixteen businessmen from Jordan, and in the autumn fair (from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15), there were thirty Jordanian businessmen.

The 1978 autumn fair was China's fourth main commercial exhibit for foreign businessmen. Attendance has risen from several thousand in 1977 the first year, to between 30,000 to 40,000 in 1978. Commenting on the fair, Mr. Kuo said: "We believe friendship will follow the trade."

Mr. Kuo said that trade relations exist with all Arab countries although diplomatic relations have not been established with all of them.

At present nearly all Chinese goods come into Jordan through Aqaba port. Direct air links do not exist between China and any Arab country, but indirect links exist via Iran, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Airfreighted goods would be too expensive in any case, Mr. Kuo said.

The Jordanian businessmen who visit the Canton fair go at their own expense. Goods on display there, ranging from agricultural to industrial products, included up to 40,000 items in 1978.

Imported food items from China on sale in Jordanian shops include canned meat, canned mushrooms and frozen chicken and fish.

It is China's aim to increase trade with Third World countries and it is now looking for other Jordanian products which it can buy. Possibilities include fertilisers and potash from the Dead Sea project.

To further Jordanian-Chinese commercial relations, an exhibit of Chinese products will be set up in Amman in the month of July. Mr. Kuo told us that beyond the commercial aspect, "we want to increase understanding" between the Jordanian and Chinese people. At the Damascus International Fair there is a regular Chinese exhibit said Mr. Kuo.

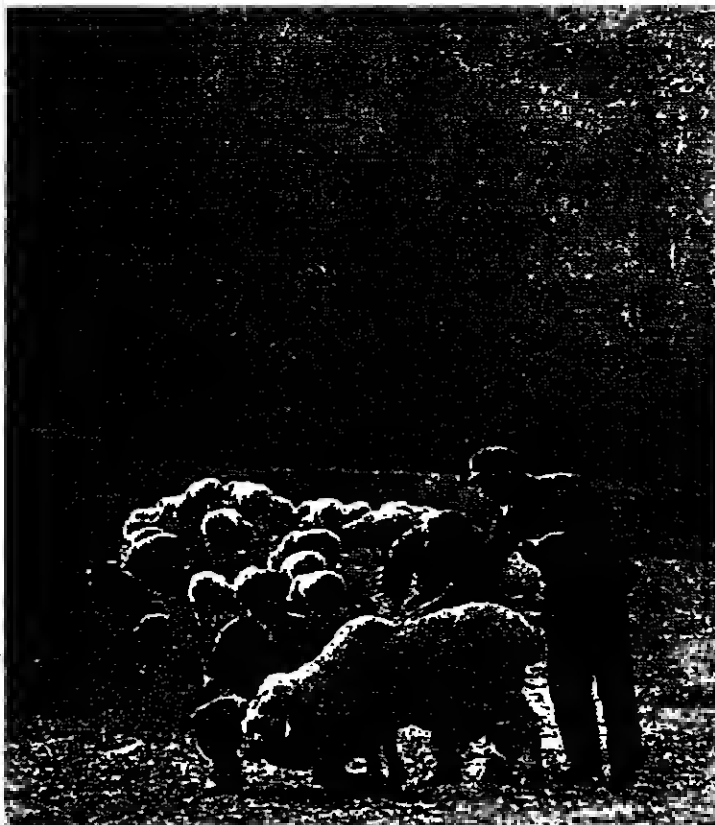
Two prominent Jordanian businessmen recently talked to the Jordan Times about their trading activities with China. Mr. Sami N. Khoury, managing director of Saleh N. Khoury and Co. in Amman, has visited the Canton Trade Fair about 14 times. He likes to attend because personal business dealings are always better, he said. Sometimes certain commodities are in short supply so that those businessmen who arrive first have a better chance than others.

Each branch of the Chinese trade organisation has a representative at the fair who signs contracts with foreign traders. When a price is confirmed, "that means it's law," Mr. Khoury said concerning the Chinese traders. "They ship you the same quality or better," he said, and they are "very cooperative people."

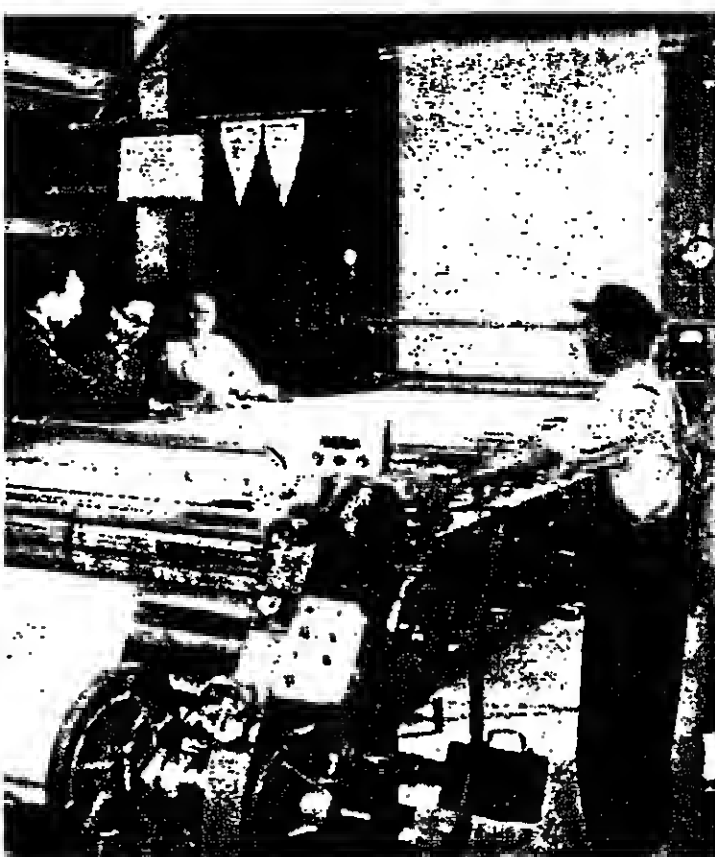
Sometimes Chinese goods are not competitive in the Jordanian market. Eastern European canned vegetables, for instance, are sometimes cheaper.

Khoury imports tinned food, glassware, stationery, porcelain ware and confectionery from China. Much of his imports to the Aqaba Free Zone however do not come to the Jordanian market. He does considerable business with Saudi merchants as well.

Goods usually come to Aqaba



Tinned mutton is one of the most popular Chinese items in Jordan's shops.



Textiles are an important Chinese export. Such items as bed sheets from China are found on the Jordanian market.

by sea via Hong Kong or Singapore shipping lines, said Mr. Khoury.

Mr. Riad Saifi said his father began trading with China in 1953 because of their very low prices. At that time, explained Mr. Saifi, many of the western countries were boycotting Chinese products, so the Chinese encouraged business successfully by cutting prices. Mr. Saifi's father began trading in walnuts and pumpkin seeds and the firm now has grown to the point of over JD 2 million worth of business in 1978. Like Khoury, much of those goods never reach the Jordan markets, but go to other Arab countries.

how much profit he himself makes on Chinese goods. Mr. Khoury showed his business sense: "Oh, that's a secret..." A maximum of 10 per cent of the retail price of an item goes to the wholesaler and retailer, whereas 40 per cent or more may go to the government, he claimed.

Mr. Saifi re-ships up to 95 per cent of the goods he brings into Aqaba Free Zone to other Arab destinations.

He predicts that competition will increase especially now that American businessmen and capital are freer to operate in China. "We think the Chinese won't forget their friends," he emphasised.



Mr. Sami N. Khoury



Mr. Riad Saifi

"We trust them," Mr. Saifi said of the Chinese. He imports more than 60 items from China including tinned meat, broad beans, tinned mushrooms, jam and honey. Such items as corned mutton, canvas shoes, glassware and nuts are good sellers in the Jordanian market, he continued.

Mr. Saifi buys Chinese goods for resale in Europe and Australia. He says: "I am one of their oldest friends, but we have more competition all the time."

Mr. Khoury explained that a large part of the mark up of an item on the shelf in an Amman shop is due to customs duties. He said that on any given item, the customs duty imposed by the Jordanian authorities can go up to 60 per cent of its cost. When asked

ised. He said that American businessmen began visiting China before Nixon's visit.

As we talked in Mr. Saifi's small over-the-warehouse office he made a quick phone call to Jeddah to check on the delivery of Chinese mutton.

Total Jordanian-Chinese trade came to JD 10 million in 1978 claims Mr. Saifi.

Mr. Khoury said that one problem with Chinese goods is the packaging. When the Chinese trade delegation visited Jordan last summer, he spoke to them about the problem and thinks they are now working on a solution.

Both Mr. Khoury and Mr. Saifi are basically owners of wholesale outlets but also have retail shops.

NOTEBOOK

Son of Camp David

By Rami G. Khouri

THE LINE between politics and theatrics in the United States has always been a hazy one, and the successes of the cinema industry, based in Hollywood, have often been copied by the political industry, based in Washington. The prospect of a new tripartite American-Israeli-Egyptian summit conference at ministerial level within the coming few weeks shows us once again that the politicians are not very far behind the cinema actors and producers. Just as the film industry thrives on producing sequels to popular and money-making productions, so we are similarly on the verge of having the political answer to the film industry's tested techniques. We are to be offered "Son of Camp David." The thought is not an encouraging one.

What does the political landscape of today contain that is different from what prevailed during the Camp David summit of last September? Several things, which all work against raising the hopes of reasonable people that "Son of Camp David" will produce anything that will make the Middle East an arena more blessed with justice.

The most important difference between today and five months ago is that the Israelis have wasted no time and few words in showing that they are not serious about allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate right to national self-determination. This is the discouraging factor that swamps all others. If, for example, in the course of the past five months the Israelis had allowed the 1,500 Palestinians they've deported from the occupied areas to return there and play their indigenous, natural leadership roles, and if the Israelis had hinted at their willingness to face up to reality by dealing with the acknowledged Palestinian national leadership instead of trying to create a new one from among their hand-picked cast of weirdos, then the world might be understood if it expected anything concrete to emerge from "Son of Camp David." But this has not been the case.

Instead, the Israelis have used the past five months to show beyond any reasonable doubt (to use a phrase from American jurisprudence, which conveniently allows the Israelis to test themselves according to the dictates of democracy which they incessantly claim to champion) that they are willing to allow only the emergence of an inconsequential local Palestinian administrative council that is to have only cosmetic powers in only a fraction of Palestine and over only a small minority of the Palestinian people. I'm not even sure anymore that the Israelis will allow the Palestinians to take out their own garbage. Perhaps, as we now suspect, the Israelis will allow the Palestinians to decide the colour of their garbage trucks and the shape of their garbage bags, but other

important decisions—such as the location of garbage dumps, and the technology to be used to separate the paper litter from the beer cans—will probably be left up to Israeli military occupation authorities disguised in the clothes of sanitation consultants. It would be a valuable exercise to study the Israeli version of Palestinian autonomy alongside the Fourteen Points of President Wilson and the Declaration of Independence and the B' of Rights of the United States, to see how vulgar the Israeli deception being practised against the United States, the people of the world, and the Palestinians in particular.

For the Americans now to unveil "Son of Camp David", in view of what the Israelis have revealed in the past five months of their true intention vis-a-vis Palestinian rights, is either a reflection of incredible American naivete, or an indication that the United States is going to stop being so naive in the future and clobber the Israelis over the head with the truncheon of reality. That is, perhaps the Americans are going to stop expecting the Arabs to make all the concessions, and are going to start asking for some clear steps forward from the Israelis. This is always possible, but I doubt it is the case.

The experience of the past three years of Mideast diplomacy has to make the Arabs think that what the Americans are involved in today is an exercise of escalating imbecilities. This is more disappointing than ever, given the demonstration in Iran of the depth of power that can be unleashed by masses in the streets. The American-Israeli-Egyptian effort to formulate and then impose a so-called "peace" plan on the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza will only lead, in the end, to Arabs everywhere tearing off their shirts, standing in front of the American-Israeli-Egyptian gun, and daring it to shoot. No good can come out of a negotiating process based on principles that have been universally rejected in all the Arab quarters of any importance. If the original Camp David exercise produced a stillborn monster, "Son of Camp David" will only produce a Frankenstein that will run amuck all over the Middle East, everywhere sending people into the streets.

For the Americans to say that there is no other alternative because the Israelis will not accept the present Arab demands of withdrawal from occupied territory in return for Arab recognition of Israel is only to aggravate the imbecility underlies the current peace-making effort. It is because this does not appear to be appreciated in Washington that we are on the verge of being offered a cinematic extravaganza where a moral rational and systematic diplomatic effort required. If Hollywood can substitute for Washington in the United States, it cannot do so in the Middle East.

Hijaz Railway meetings to be held in Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JNA)—The technical committee of the Hijaz Railway will hold a meeting here early next month to review economic feasibility studies presented by foreign firms on the railway project. Under-secretary of the Ministry of Transport Hashem Al Taher stated here today. He said the outcome of the studies will be referred to the Higher Commission of the Hijaz Railway composed of the Saudi minister of communications and the Syrian and Jordanian ministers of transport. The ministers will be meeting here immediately after the committee's meeting. Mr. Al Taher said.

Pakistani embassy plans celebration

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JT)—The Pakistani embassy here will hold a reception tomorrow, to celebrate Prophet Mohammad's birthday. Ambassador Shahbazar Mohammad Khan will host the reception which is intended especially for the Pakistani community living in Jordan. Other celebrations under the auspices of the embassy will be held by Pakistani workers employed in Zarqa and Shunja Janubia.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Children's Art

The Haya Arts Centre present an exhibit on of Jordanian children's paintings and Indian children's handicrafts. The exhibit is open during regular hours, ending today.

Art Exhibit

An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Moustafa is on display at the Art Gallery, Ministry of Culture and Youth, open from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Photo Exhibit

An exhibition of photos depicting two cities in the U.S.S. Novgorod and Pskov, is on display at the Soviet Cultural Centre during regular hours.

Painting Exhibit

The British Council presents an exhibition of watercolours and paintings by Clara Metzbagopian. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and during regular hours in the afternoon, ending today.

Painting and Drawing Exhibit

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Ann Wiegand is on display at the American Centre. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

German Art Exhibit

The Goethe Institute presents a photographic survey of W. German contemporary art entitled "Photography as Documentation." Open during regular hours.

Russian Film

The Soviet Cultural Centre presents a film about a World War hero, entitled "The Strong in Spirit," at 6:00 p.m.

The truth will out

"Yes, I confessed; how can one resist such torture? The interrogators hit me with a stick on my genitals. They put my head into the opening of a chair and told me to go up, then down... They threatened to bring my mother and sister and rape them in front of me..."

TESTIMONY like the above—a composite from documented interviews with two 13-year-old Palestinian schoolboys — has for some time been available from individuals and organisations concerned with exposing Israeli torture practices against Arab prisoners, particularly on the West Bank.

Eveo the U.S. State Department, with its see-no-evil, hear-no-evil, speak-no-evil attitude to Israel, cannot have been unaware of the existence — eveo the validity — of such reports. But in case any purblind sceptics remain at Foggy Bottom—or oo Capitol Hill or at the White House—they will have oo their desks this week the State Department's own 1979 "human rights report," which will draw on cables from the department's own embassy in Israel documenting "instances of mistreatment" against Palestinian prisoners in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank. Based on investigations, made at considerable risk, by ao intrepid member of the embassy staff, the up-to-now secret cables reported "the possibility that...brutality in the interrogation of Arab political prisoners is a systematic practice."

Credit must go to the investigator, and to the embassy staff who sent the cables, and to the State Department for publishing the reports. There are many in this part of the world who have come close to despairing at the gap between the lofty ideals of President Carter's vaunted concern with human rights around the world, and the reality of the beastly crimes committed by some of Washington's most favoured clients.

(Now let us see if this report is faithfully consigned to a back shelf in the stacks of the State Department archives, or brought to the forefront of American policy-making. The Americans are going to be talking to the Israelis over the next few weeks in connection with the small matter of a "peace" initiative in the Middle East. Let us hope that this matter is brought to their attention.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Writing editorially Wednesday AL RA'I is almost certain of the impossibility of imposing a Middle East solution between Egypt and Israel only, and warns the parties concerned not to risk the security and stability of the area and the world at large.

The newspaper says that while U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance thinks that resumed Egyptian-Israeli talks at ministerial level would be able to achieve progress towards a peace agreement, Egypt for its part had more than once reiterated its rejection of a bilateral accord, insisting on a comprehensive solution. Even if a unilateral solution was formulated in the context of comprehensiveness, it would still be rejected under the terms of the Baghdad Arab summit, the newspaper says.

Under the heading "Bhutto's Fate", AL DUSTOUR says the decision of the Pakistani Supreme Court to uphold the death sentence on former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto poses extremely complicated moral, legal and political problems.

Mr. Bhutto was condemned by the Lahore High Court in March last year. Its verdict of death sentence was subsequently confirmed by the Supreme Court. Therefore President General Zia-ul-Haq, who swore to uphold respect for the law and the constitution, can say that he is duty-bound to enforce the verdict and the law irrespective of Mr. Bhutto's stature, because all people are equal before the law. President Zia may also go to the extent of saying that the execution of a person who was Pakistan's prime minister, condemned on the charges of murder, is a source of pride for a country that punishes its rulers for violating the law notwithstanding their stature or their services to the country.

However, the newspaper adds, there are other facts of the matter which Gen. Zia-ul-Haq must weigh when contemplating the fate of Mr. Bhutto. First, international opinion continues to consider Mr. Bhutto's trial as basically a "political" trial; the verdict passed on him surpasses the incident for which he was tried in order to involve him as a political rival to the present regime that overthrew his government. Then there are statements by Amnesty International which contend that Mr. Bhutto was not given a just and free trial. To this can be added the fact that the judges of the Supreme Court were split on the verdict; their decision was not unanimous. This fact may be used by Gen. Zia to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment.

Al Dustour finally appeals to President Zia to "strike an equilibrium between enforcement of the maximum penalty in respect of an accused of Mr. Bhutto's stature, on one hand, and the benefits that can accrue to the country by substituting the logic of "mercy" for the logic of "right" on the other.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

JORDAN WEEKLY CALENDAR has resumed publication each Friday on a regular basis. We would like to draw our readers' attention to the fact that the Jordan Times must be informed of events to be included in this column well in advance; the deadline is 12:00 noon Thursday.

This is to ensure that all events for the following week are listed, as they will continue to be listed—without charge—daily under WHAT'S GOING ON.

Jordanian artist finds inspiration, comfort in simple beauty of nature

Symposium takes step towards pan-Arab science and technology policy

Alan Martin

Differing in theme, the works of two other artists, Clara Metzghopian and Mustafa's strong impression of local

Clara loves nature. "Sometimes I take a very small plant and look at it carefully. You can see so much in the littlest things. Nature gives us so much," she says. The exhibit, consisting of oil paintings, water colours and charcoal sketches, represents works she has produced over the last four years. "One thing about painting," she told the Jordan Times in an interview, "is you have to have a feeling for it. When I paint I am more motivated by my emotions than by

my thoughts. I have the colours in front of me and paint as I feel." Born and raised in Amman, Miss Metzghopian received her education at the Rosary College. She took ballet lessons for three years but came to a point of decision when she had to choose between painting and ballet. "It's hard to do two arts well," she said. "I chose painting because I feel freer and there are more opportunities for development." She took private art lessons for about one year but has learned through experience ever since. "Some people think that to learn art you must go to school," she

said, "but I feel if one wants to go on with art one must develop his own talent. I know people who have studied art at the university for four years who do nothing now; they have nothing to give. Without schooling it goes slowly but you can go the way you want." She has made a large collection of dried flowers which acts as a kind of colour guide for her. "I like to paint natural things," she said. "They have more feeling. With objects I don't feel anything, so I find it hard to draw them." Since 1968 she has faithfully kept a diary in which she has written her experiences and thoughts.

She is also an avid reader. A book, she says, is more than an object. It contains ideas and feelings. "Whenever I get frustrated or cannot go on painting for some reason I sit down and read a book about a painter. Reading the stories of artists' lives affects me even more than seeing their paintings."

When she meets certain people or experiences trouble or loneliness she feels desire to paint. A great deal of her inspiration comes from viewing the morning and evening skies. "Every day I look at the sunset and moon. There is always a different scene with different colours."

Miss Metzghopian began painting in oil in 1975 and has worked in other media as well, such as water colour, pencil and charcoal. She paints at a studio set up in her home.

She makes no pretense of being a highly experienced artist. "These are my first paintings and I'm not ashamed. Everybody begins at zero and works up to something. It takes time."

Asked if she intended to continue painting, she replied: "I may not continue to be an artist but I will continue to paint." Recognition, she feels, is not a proper motive for painting. "The main thing is to do it well."

Miss Metzghopian is presently working at the Rosary College as a French teacher. After a full day of teaching, correcting papers and studying she devotes the evenings to her art.

This is her first painting exhibition. For those who have not yet had an opportunity to see it, Thursday will be their last chance. The exhibition is open during normal office hours at the British Council.

By Ron Cathell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 7 -- The symposium on the role of scientific research in the development of Arab countries concluded here today with progress made towards drafting guidelines for a pan-Arab policy on science and technology.

This policy will be described in a working paper to be drawn up later this year and presented at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology in Vienna this autumn.

The three-day symposium at the Royal Scientific Society hosted representatives from research institutes, universities and unions of scientists in 11 Arab countries.

Several recommendations were made for integrating scientific research into national development efforts and improving coordination in such efforts between the Arab states.

The recommendations, along

with those from three similar conferences to be held this year in Libya, South Yemen and Iraq, will be worked into a general science and technology policy for Arab countries. The Baghdad based Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils (UASRC), sponsors of the symposium in Amman, will prepare the paper to be presented in Vienna.

An important agreement reached at the symposium is that the scientific research centres in each country should be actively involved in the long-range planning of national development.

The adoption of clear-cut national science and technology policies as an integral part of each country's development planning was strongly recommended.

"The organisations responsible for scientific research in each country should be linked as closely as possible to their national planning body. This was the consensus of the symposium," Dr. Nizar Al Shawi, Secretary General of UASRC, told the Jordan Times.

"In Iraq, the central scientific organisation is directly connected to the national planning board," Dr. Al Shawi said. "Its director is a member of the planning board and of the higher educational council, so he is also linked to qualified manpower in research. This is an example which could be copied."

The scientists also recommended strengthening the science and technology infrastructure in each country with better planning and funding to build more research institutes.

Much emphasis was put on industry becoming involved in research and development.

The Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils was urged to conduct a comprehensive study on the priorities of scientific and technological research in the Arab World. This study will also explore ways to promote Arab agricultural self-sufficiency and the establishment of strategic industries to serve the defensive needs of the Arab World.

Dr. Albert Butros, Director General of the RSS, said other recommendations call for a unified code of conduct for Arab scientific research, and a policy for the transfer and adaption of technology. "This calls for stronger cooperation with the policy-makers in government," he said.

It was agreed to continue the efforts already begun to study each country's socio-economic needs and set up joint projects to benefit several countries at the same time. "In this way, we can pool our resources and cut down on duplication of effort. It will be a disciplinary approach to scientific development," Dr. Butros said.

Cooperation with similar research institutions in the developing countries was also recommended. The developed nations were urged to help promote research and training programmes in the Arab countries.

Dr. Butros is very pleased with the outcome of the symposium. "This kind of meeting usually ends up with general views. But this one was able to be more specific," he said. "We have agreed on our need for a comprehensive pan-Arab policy on science and technology, one that will lead to greater Arab cohesion in the scientific sphere and become a part of Arab developmental strategy."



"Biblical Flowers"



"Roses"



Clara Metzghopian with "Study Room in Time," one of her paintings on exhibit at the British Council Centre.

King Hussein to speak at celebration

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JNA)--A celebration on the occasion of Prophet Mohammad's birthday will be held at the Palace of Culture tomorrow under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

The King and the Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan will deliver speeches on the occasion, and there will be live radio and television coverage of the event.

Religious ceremonies will be held in different parts of the country and all government departments and public institutions will be closed on the occasion. The scouts of Amman will stage two parades in the main streets of the capital and will be accompanied by the armed forces band. At 6:00 p.m. the evening fireworks display will take place.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	576	6.560	6.570	6.570
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10.000	1,859	14.250	14.350	14.300
Housing Bank	JD 1.000	3,561	1.160	1.190	1.160
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1.000	98	—	1.960	1.960
General Mining Co.	JD 1.000	288	0.960	0.970	0.960
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1.000	307	1.310	—	1.310
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1.000	2,528	0.930	0.960	0.950
Industrial, Commercial And Agricultural Co.	JD 1.000	720	2.520	—	2.550
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5.000	105	8.750	8.850	8.750
Al Ezdihar Insurance Co.	JD 1.000	945	1.050	1.070	1.050
Cairo-Amman Bank	JD 5.000	320	—	—	6.400
Jordan Worsted Mills Co.	JD 1.000	206	1.600	1.650	1.600

Total volume traded, Wednesday, Feb. 7: JD 11,513
Total number of shares traded: 7,909

Government Development Bonds	Par value	Volume traded	Number traded	Year of maturity	Selling price
	JD 5.000	494	95	1979	5.210
	JD 5.000	308	60	1980	5.145
	JD 5.000	11,112	2,207	1986	5.035

Total volume traded: JD 11,914

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	297.00/299.00
U.K. sterling	594.00/598.00
West German mark	159.90/160.90
Swiss franc	176.90/178.00
French franc	69.60/70.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	35.40/35.60
Japanese yen (for every 100)	149.70/150.60
Dutch guilder	148.30/149.20
Belgian franc (for every ten)	101.50/102.10
Swedish crown	68.10/68.50

TODAY'S WEATHER

A depression centre moving east from western Cyprus will affect the area within 24 hours making the weather cloudy and rainy in most parts of the Kingdom. A decrease in temperatures will occur and winds will be southwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba it will be partly cloudy with scattered rain, a chance of thunderstorms, southwesterly moderate to fresh winds and rough seas.

Temperature:	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	5	12
Aqaba	10	18
Jordan Valley	11	18
Deserts	4	14

TIME

The World Newsmagazine

Read in this week's issue...
— Khomeini era (the power struggle begins in Iran)
— Teng's triumph (U.S. tour, a rousing success for China)
— Iraq and Syria (new alliance could upset Middle East)

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Coffee tasters talk beans and blends in Frankfurt



HAMBURG, W. Germany—Coffee tasters meet regularly in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany, to select the right blend of beans for soluble coffee extract. This year is the fortieth anniversary of the invention, in Switzerland, of soluble instant coffee, which has grown astonishingly popular all over the world. In Germany leading importers in Hamburg

and Bremen manufacture their own brands of coffee extract, but Germans mainly prefer the real thing: freshly roasted beans. Sales dipped last year and the year before as prices soared, but after several price cuts this year they are now back in normal. (photo DaD)

From gunpowder to tea, they're Chinese

By John Hoffmann

PEKING—The ingenuity of the Chinese people has endowed the world with some of its most valued innovations in the past three thousand years.

Paper and gunpowder are well known as Chinese discoveries. There is ample evidence too in Chinese cuisine of what can be achieved by dogged experiment and inspired creativity: what other nation would make such delectable use of bears' paws, fish stomachs and parasitic fungi?

The Chinese invented the crossbow in the third century BC. Two hundred years later, in search of more refined forms of combat, they found football.

In the second century AD they came up with the first seismograph and in the third century launched the tea-drinking habit on an unsuspecting world.

A thousand years ago China became the first nation to put its trust in paper money. And more recently it has added to civilisation's breadth with the Mao-suit, Mao-thought and mao-ai (unrelated to the late Chairman, it is a potent white spirit noted for its efficacy in lubricating tongues and numbing minds).

Now, poised for its rush towards modernisation and technological development, China wants its people to come up with more inventions. Economic planners are already committed to buying much new technology from highly

China invented paper, gunpowder, the crossbow, football and even the Mao-suit—but now the Chinese are looking for more inventions. Inventive Chinese, in future, will qualify not only for honourable mentions, medals and praise, but solid cash rewards as well.

industrialised countries but they realise that in many fields it will be cheaper for China to create its own. And to give encouragement to the nation's inventors, its leadership has offered handsome cash lures for useful devices.

The awards range in four grades from 1,000 Yuan (£330) to 10,000 Yuan (£3,300). Especially important inventions could earn even higher awards.

Announcing the incentive system, the Chinese press said it would be open to foreigners and Chinese living abroad. To qualify for an award, an invention must be a new scientific or technical achievement, the announcement says. Other stipulations are that nobody has invented it before, that it is "advanced" and that it has been proved to be usable.

Special committees have been set up to classify, examine and recommend inventions submitted to the State Scientific and Technological Commission. Separate procedures will apply to special inventions for military use.

The size of the awards is surprising even in a China which is taking note of the powerful effect of material incentives on pro-

ductivity. During the years of the Cultural Revolution, a period of economic stagnation in China, any form of bonus or material incentive was taboo—an offence against a dominant puritanical view of socialist egalitarianism.

Last year, however, productivity bonuses were cautiously introduced in industry to cultivate the enthusiasm of workers, although they were limited to five or ten yuan a month. Immediate productivity increases were recorded and the Chinese leadership quickly swept aside its ideological reservations.

Acknowledging that the proposed inventors' incentives might be questioned as excessive, the People's Daily newspaper editorialised: "Backwardness in science and technology and a dearth of inventions and discoveries is one reason why per capita income not only lags behind first and second world countries but is also lower than in most third world countries."

"The policy of making awards for inventions is based on the recognition of differences existing in the society. In the overall picture, this policy is necessary to raise the

living standards of all the people.

"We must base our policy on reality. In the course of socialist construction we should let some areas, enterprises and working people get more pay and improved living standards as a result of their own greater efforts. This is the only way to encourage others to learn from them."

"The newspaper insists, though, that money is not everything. In giving awards for inventions it is essential to combine honorary awards with material awards and put the stress on honorary awards."

So each successful inventor will receive, in addition to his cash, a medal and a certificate. Such recognition is undoubtedly important: in the Chinese communist system public approbation has always carried a lot of weight. The pinnacle of achievement for many workers is to have their names displayed as "model workers" on notice-boards at the factory gate.

The highest inventors' award—10,000 Yuan—is the equivalent of at least 10 years' salary for a moderately well-paid technical worker. Despite the ideology, that fact—rather than the prospect of a medal and a certificate—will be the driving force in most inventors' efforts to build China "a better mousetrap."

Financial Times
News-Features

Australian livestock



Australia's coastal belt has such as this dairying proper many rich pastoral districts in New South Wales.



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New boatload of refugees slips into Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Feb. 7 (R)—Three thousand more Vietnamese refugees arrived here today when the Panamanian freighter *Skyluck* sneaked in under cover of darkness. It brought a new headache for the authorities in this British colony, already an overcrowded haven for 10,000 Vietnamese "boat people".

Some refugees aboard the yellow-funnelled ship waved, whistled and shouted when a launch full of newsmen chugged past it as it lay in a sheltered bay off the island of Lamma, a popular weekend picnic spot.

The freighter had slipped through a thinly-strewn net of marine police launch patrols and presented Hong Kong with its second major refugee problem of the year.

After a four-week deadlock on

the high seas, the Taiwanese freighter *Huey Fong* sailed in last month, its decks crammed with 3,400 Vietnamese who had refused to sail on to the ship's original destination, Taiwan.

The *Skyluck* broke Hong Kong marine laws by sailing in without radioing ahead with details of its destination, cargo, crew and passengers. The Taiwanese captain could face four years imprisonment if convicted of carrying unscheduled passengers into this

British colony.

The newly-arrived mercy ship had patches of rust on its black hull but was certainly not in such a dilapidated state as the *Huey Fong*.

New deterrent laws were speedily enacted last month to combat alleged refugee racketeers and the *Huey Fong's* captain has been charged with carrying excess passengers.

Hong Kong appears to have little choice but to accept the human cargo off the *Skyluck*, reported by officials here to have been sailing from Singapore to Hong Kong.

The Singapore port authorities said the 3,506-ton freighter left the island republic on Jan. 12 for "a destination unknown". It had arrived there on Jan. 15 from Hong Kong, a voyage that normally takes about a week.

Police, guarding the freighter with two marine launches, are trying to establish how the refugees were picked up. No details were immediately available.

The British authorities here specially converted an old air force base to take the *Huey Fong's* flow of refugees, and the *Skyluck* homeless could end up there too.

Greece, Turkey to begin talks on major disputes

ATHENS, Feb. 7 (R)—The secretary-general of the Greek Foreign Ministry, Byron Theodoropoulos, left for Ankara today for talks on disputes between Greece and Turkey, including the issue of the Aegean Sea's continental shelf over which the two countries have come close to war.

Mr. Theodoropoulos will have two days of meetings starting tomorrow, with his Turkish counterpart Sukru Elekdag. They will discuss the delineation of the continental shelf, thought to be rich in offshore oil and minerals, and control of air space over the Aegean.

Greece claims that its more than 3,000 islands dotting the sea should have a continental shelf while Turkey argues that its Anatolian coastal shelf extends midway into the Aegean, overlapping some Greek islands.

Algeria makes ready for new president

ALGIERS, Feb. 7 (R)—Over eight million Algerians are expected to turn out today to endorse Mr. Chadli Ben Jedd, 49, as their new president in succession to the late Houari Boumedienne.

The result will be announced tomorrow and the new president will take the oath of office on Friday. The succession will thus take place within the 45-day limit set in the constitution.

Mr. Ben Jedd was elected general secretary of the country's only political party, the National Liberation Front (NLF), on Jan. 31

and automatically became the sole presidential candidate. Under an Algerian tradition, he immediately dropped his military title of colonel.

In an interview with the official Algerian news agency APS last night, Mr. Ben Jedd said the country had managed well in passing through a difficult period.

He was clearly referring to constitutional and political problems created by the death on Dec. 27 of President Boumedienne, who had ruled Algeria since 1965.

Mr. Ben Jedd appeared briefly on television last night and said he

firmly intended to make sure the revolution would continue. He promised the voters more housing, schools and free health care—mainstays of the socialist programme but still lacking. He also insisted on the need to preserve the country's riches and to use them for the good of the masses.

On foreign policy, Mr. Ben Jedd—who took over the defence portfolio from Mr. Boumedienne when the president fell ill with a blood disease last autumn—insisted Algeria above all wanted to be independent.

Belgium to send troops but Zaire denies disturbances

BRUSSELS, Feb. 7 (R)—Belgium is sending paratroops on a training mission to its former colony of Zaire where 1,700 Belgian soldiers helped to quell an invasion of Shaba province by Zairean exiles last May.

Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko and its ambassador to Brussels both denied the troops were being sent there were any disturbances in the vast central African country. They said the situation was calm.

But senior Belgian officials said the Belgian Government was increasingly concerned for the safety of the 30,000 Europeans living in Zaire.

Last May hundreds of people, including nearly 200 Europeans, were killed when a rebel force seized the mining city of Kolwezi in Shaba province. The rebels were driven back into Angola after French Foreign Legionnaires and Belgian troops recaptured the city.

The official Belgian announcement said the paratroops would take part in joint exercises with Zairean soldiers training at Kitona, one of Zaire's main military bases.

Informed sources said the detachment would consist of 250 volunteers from a crack paracommando regiment. The decision to send them

followed consultations with the United States, Britain and France, the three Western permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the sources said.

General Mobutu told the official Zairean news agency AZAP the contingent was going to Zaire under a military cooperation agreement reached after the invasion of Shaba.

The situation in and around Kinshasa was calm, he said. He denied that Zaire had called for the intervention of foreign troops to restore order.

Zaire's ambassador to Brussels, Inonga Lokonga L'ombe, also denied there were disturbances in his country. "Anybody can make a phone call to relatives in Kinshasa and check for himself that they are imaginary troubles," he said.

The leader of an opposition movement in exile, Joseph Mbeka Makosso, secretary general of the Organisation for the Liberation of the Congo, said in Brussels he was not aware of troubles in Kinshasa.

"What is true is that there is general dissatisfaction and therefore it would be a pity if Belgium were to continue supporting the Mobutu regime," he said.

Spain's general election campaign underway with socialists in front

MADRID, Feb. 7 (R)—Spain's second general election campaign in just over a year and a half opened today with public opinion polls showing the opposition Socialist Party taking an early lead.

Party militants began sticking up posters throughout Spain at the stroke of midnight calling on voters to cast their ballots. About 9,000 candidates are contesting the 350 seats in the Congress (lower house) and 248 seats in the Senate.

The polls published yesterday showed the socialists ahead now, but with a large undecided vote which will swing the election to one side or the other.

The monarchist newspaper ABC published two polls by different organisations. One gave the PSOE 29 per cent to the UCD's 19, while the other saw the socialists ahead by only 20 to 19 per cent, with 38 per cent undecided.

A poll in the liberal daily *El Pais* put the socialists ahead by 21 per cent to the UCD's 18.4, but it forecast a final result of 24.9 per cent for the UCD to 24.7 per cent

for the socialists.

In private, senior government officials echoed the predictions of the *El Pais* poll—neither major party will win enough votes to gain an overall majority.

The UCD has ruled as a minority government, with parliamentary backing from other parties, since June 15, 1977, date of the first democratic elections in Spain since 1936.

'Voluntary' challenged as misnomer for U.S. wage, price guidelines

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (AP)—The public has been told that U.S. President Jimmy Carter's wage and price guidelines are voluntary. But the administration's anti-inflation chief says "voluntary" may not be the correct word because the government is prepared to use economic sanctions against companies that violate the standards.

During congressional testimony yesterday, Alfred Kahn, chairman of the president's Council on Wage and Price Stability, defended what he sees as the

administration's legal right to use such sanctions.

Mr. Kahn, answering criticism from the American Bar Association (ABA) and the General Accounting Office, said: "Our lawyers tell us it's legal" for the government to impose sanctions by withholding contracts from companies that violate the guidelines.

During the House Banking Subcommittee hearing yesterday, Mr. Kahn also said the anti-inflation programme is "in a very large measure, voluntary." But he said the government is prepared to use economic sanctions.

Mr. Kahn added that more than 200 of the nation's largest corporations have promised to comply with the price standards, which generally limit price hikes to 5.75 per cent. He said most recent major labour contracts have remained well within the administration's seven per cent guideline for wage hikes.

"It is obvious to me that both management and labour are taking the standards seriously," Mr. Kahn said.

However, the ABA's Economic Resources Controls Committee released a report yesterday saying "The president's plan is not voluntary" because it relies "on a fear of government retaliation." The lawyers' group added that the government has no legal authority to withhold government contracts from firms that fail to comply with government price standards.

The General Accounting Office, a congressional investigative and auditing agency, has expressed similar misgivings, but the agency said it is preparing legislation to give the president authority to withhold contracts.

Major differences cloud hopes for Cyprus talks

NICOSIA, Feb. 7 (R)—Efforts are being made to prevent a complete breakdown in attempts to bring Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to the negotiating table, according to government sources. Until last week, hopes had been high that the two communities would be able to reach agreement and resume inter-communal talks aimed at solving the five-year-old Cyprus problem.

Now there is an air of pessimism as sources on both sides admit serious differences remain.

At the heart of the problem are conditions which the Turkish Cypriot leadership has set in return for their agreement to return to the negotiating table—conditions that the Greek Cypriot leadership has rejected.

The conditions are reported to be: that the economic blockade imposed by the Cyprus Government on the occupied north of the island be lifted; that the government agrees to stop "internationalising" the Cyprus problem; that Greek Cypriots be allowed back into the now deserted Famagusta suburb of Varosha, occupied by the Turks since the 1974 Turkish invasion—but only gradually, their numbers depending on progress at the talks.

The task of finding a compromise has fallen to the special United Nations representative in Cyprus, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, of Salvador.

Since last December, when U.S. Secretary-General Kurt Wal-

debelm put forward his own proposals to replace the so-called American plan which had been rejected, Mr. Galindo-Pohl has been heavily involved in secret shuttle diplomacy, trying to discover common ground and enable the talks to be resumed.

So far he has seen Cypriot Foreign Minister Nicos Rolandis at least 20 times, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash on a dozen occasions.

According to government sources, the U.N. envoy has had some success with the "Waldheim formula", which closely resembles the plan originally put forward by the Americans several months ago, but has been unable to soften the three Turkish Cypriot conditions.

This week was seen as the crucial period for the U.N. efforts. A final decision was widely expected to be taken by both sides, allowing Mr. Waldheim to announce a resumption of the negotiations coinciding with a visit by him to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

Such expectations were strengthened by his announcement in New York last week that a planned trip to the Far East had been cancelled in order that he could be ready to deal with the Cyprus problem and the situation in Namibia.

But a senior Greek Cypriot official said: "I am afraid there is little cause for optimism, because fears that the Turks do not really want to return to the table are fast becoming a reality."

"Their demand that we lift the economic embargo amounts to a request that we recognise their own airport and also the port at Famagusta."

"If we do that, we shall be recognising that a separate state exists and helping them to maintain economically what they gained by invading the island in 1974."

Another government source said: "The Turks are insisting that we forego the right to take the Cyprus issue to international bodies."

"Well, if the negotiations are going well we shall have no need to do so, but only fools would accept such an agreement in advance. And the fact that they insist on this condition would seem to suggest that they know in advance that the talks are not going to be successful."

The main Turkish Cypriot objection to allowing the inhabitants of Varosha to return to their homes at the same time the talks resume is based on mistrust of the Cyprus Government's intentions.

Their view is that, having allowed a return en masse, the Greek side would be able to break off the talks having gained a significant piece of valuable territory.

This view is refuted by the Greek Cypriots. Said one government official: "We see the return to Varosha as an act of faith on behalf of the Turks and envisage it as being a very good move since it will provide an excellent momentum for the talks."

Building for an uncertain future

By Dennis Kiley

The white Cadillac would have gladdened the heart of any pool-winner—except that it had obviously been standing in the parking lot overlooking Dubai's creek for at least a year. In its thick coating of dust somebody had scrawled with a finger: "take away—free."

There are many such free take-away motor cars to be seen accumulating dust outside abandoned buildings in Dubai, in Sharjah and in Abu Dhabi. "They borrow the money to put up the building," explained a resident British architect, referring to the United Arab Emirates citizens responsible for both the buildings and the cars sometimes left outside. "Then when it is nearly finished they start trying to find tenants and they can't find any. After a while they give up and go off, sometimes by aeroplane, and they just leave their new car outside their new building and never come back."

Speculating in property has

caused building to run so far ahead of demand in the UAE that Sharjah, where it is probably at its worst, must be the world's most modern ghost town, with whole streets and boulevards of brand-new buildings abandoned before they have ever been occupied.

To stop the process before it becomes a disaster, the UAE authorities are working on a package of measures both to restrain and direct further building activity and also to cope with the problem of the bank loans which have financed most of this building. The total value of property loans in the United Arab Emirates is said to have reached \$1.76 billion, accounting for a third of all bank credit in the area.

The municipality of Abu Dhabi is to stop all permits for building new office blocks for the time being, and the market is so saturated with new living accommodation that there are reported to be 25,000 unoccupied flats in Abu Dhabi alone.

The next move will be to set up a real estate bank to take over most

of the property loans, currently carrying interest rates of up to 14 per cent, and to re-issue them at much lower rates, possibly between 4 and 5 per cent.

The banks, however, are not uniformly joyful about this prospect of having an increasingly high-risk loan burden lifted from their shoulders, because they stand to lose very healthy and profitable property loan business as well once the real estate bank starts up.

The operation is intended primarily to rescue over-extended citizens and to set up controls which will prevent them getting into the same situation again.

But it is not only building investments which have disappointed some of them and caused them finally to go off in despair, leaving their Cadillacs behind them. Surplus capacity is building up in certain local industries as well, especially ones linked to the building industry, like tile manufacture. Even soft drinks are being over-produced in this thirsty land.

The eager investors of the United Arab Emirates have built so many office and apartment blocks without having the tenants to fill them that they have created some of the world's biggest ghost towns. But a clampdown is about to begin, together with a plan to rescue them from the consequences of their own over-enthusiasm.

The UAE authorities are therefore likely to include the restricting of permits for new industries in some areas such as tile factories, cement and soft drinks.

While this operation will no doubt rescue the greater number of UAE speculators from the danger of having their vacant buildings seized by the banks, the overall effect of these restraints is likely to be felt more painfully by the large and rapidly-growing communities of immigrant workers, most of them from poorer neighbours to the east, like Pakistan and India as well as Iran.

The vast economic expansion of the main Emirates during the past ten years has pulled in so many immigrant workers that in most Emirates they now greatly outnumber the original citizens. In Abu Dhabi there are whole long streets of tiny business kiosks run

missal if they dis employer. A period of stall UAE citizens and so for immigrant workers fore be predicted in the next couple of businessmen forest off in activity for a lowed by rapid rec assuming that notth stop the oil revenue

Some of the new buildings will be against the day the Some are already in decay in the blister sandy desert winds from the sea. In Sharjah, the of the biggest op places in the whole East stands glitt waiting to be open the last monument ambitious planing Sheikh Khalid, A hoped and believe banks and busi bankers and busi come to occupy the He once show illuminated foun of his tiny sheikd put it there to mak I like everybody to

It did not work Khalid was killed a relative to take eraship of Sharjah buildings are em body is not happy Frank News

World News Briefs

British Leyland workers added to strikers

LONDON, Feb. 7 (R)—Britain's biggest automaker, British Leyland (BL), was today hit by a strike which threw the whole future of the ailing, state-run corporation into jeopardy. Nearly 19,000 workers at BL's largest plant in Longbridge, Birmingham, walked out on strike because they are not receiving a productivity bonus. Leyland management warned in advance that if it joined the thousands of other Britons striking for more pay, the corporation might not survive intact. One of the labour unions involved, Roy Sanderson of the electricians' union, termed the strike a "savage blow" and urged the immediate intervention of industry minister Eric Varley. "Leyland just cannot survive another strike," he said. BL said the Longbridge workers had dealt "a savage blow."

W. German grain elevator explosion kills

BREMEN, West Germany, Feb. 7 (AP)—Two persons were killed and another 17 injured when a grain elevator in the North city of Bremen exploded, police reported today. Rescuers were searching for another 11 persons still missing after the explosion rocked the port area late last night and set the elevator and nearby factories on fire. Police said that after the flames for several hours, fire brigades got the blaze under but it was still burning before daybreak. Police said the cause of the explosion appeared to be self-ignition of the grain elevator's flour dust.

Vietnam, Cambodia delegations table dis

ARUSHA, Tanzania, Feb. 7 (R)—Vietnam and a delegation of the ousted Pol Pot Kampuchean (Cambodian) regime, are today on the way to one side a dispute at a conference of Asian states. At a meeting yesterday of Asian members of the 77 Third World states, Vietnam called for the expulsion of Pol Pot delegation from the 11-day meeting in this northern town. Cuba made a similar call the day before. But Vietnamese spokesman Nguyen Ngoc Hoan said they had agreed to raise the issue again although in principle they still oppose the delegation's presence. The Group of 77 was founded in 1964 for a more equitable international economic order. It now has 117 Third World states. Senior officials are meeting here this preparation for next week's ministerial session of the group to be opened by Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

Moroccan professors join striking teachers

RABAT, Feb. 7 (R)—The Moroccan education system was paralysed yesterday when some 2,000 professors joined primary and secondary teachers on strike for more pay. The professors' strike, called to back demands for more adequate remuneration on promotion and salary increases to keep pace with inflation, closed down nearly all university facilities and higher institutes throughout the country. The 72-hour strike by primary and secondary school teachers is affecting more than two million in state schools. The teachers are calling for wage increases, retirement age, the release of political prisoners and respect for union activity. Meanwhile, 1,580 employees of the state agency were also called out on a 72-hour strike to back demands, including higher wages and productivity bonus. Stoppage follows several warning strikes last month.

Free market petrol price has soared

THE HAGUE, Feb. 7 (R)—The price of petrol on the free market has more than doubled since mid-December and by nearly 25 per cent since the beginning of this month. Rotterdam said yesterday. Oil prices in general have risen recent weeks and the situation in Iran was to blame. However, a senior Economics Ministry official said that of oil currently being sold on the free market was retail because major petroleum firms had bought their supplies ago. Traders in Rotterdam, the world's biggest port, said market price of super grade petrol had gone up from about 1.10 on Feb. 1 to \$3.05 a tonne on Feb. 5. In mid-December the same product was trading at \$1.40 a tonne.

U.S. 'deeply committed' to Thai freed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (R)—President Carter, stressing concern over the fighting in Kampuchea (Cambodia), has Prime Minister Kriangkarn Chamnanand, that the U.S. remains deeply committed to Thailand's freedom, integrity and unity. Mr. Carter and General Kriangkarn, meeting at the official visit, both expressed anxiety over the Viet insurgency in Kampuchea and the continuing flood of Indochina four years after the end of the Vietnam war. U.S. said General Kriangkarn would ask the United States for re-settle refugees and for more American military credit increased by \$6 million to \$30 million.

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